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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (currently amended) A composition comprising a fusion protein comprising a functional displayed domain and a functional phycobiliprotein domain incorporated in a functional oligomeric phycobiliprotein, wherein the oligomeric phycobiliprotein provides a fluorescent tag, and wherein the fusion protein further comprises (a) a specific binding moiety selected from a streptavidin biotin-binding moiety, a biotinylated or biotinylatable moiety, and an antigen binding immunoglobulin moiety; or (b) a protease cleavage site between the displayed domain and the phycobiliprotein domain.
- 2. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the phycobiliprotein domain is a natural phycobiliprotein domain.
- 3. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the functional oligomeric phycobiliprotein is an αβ heterodimer.
- 4. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the displayed domain comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of an affinity tag, an oligomerization moiety, a specific binding moiety, and a signaling moiety.
- 5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the fusion protein further comprising comprises a specific binding moiety selected from a streptavidin biotin-binding moiety, a biotinylated or biotinylatable moiety, and an antigen binding immunoglobulin moiety.
- 6. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the fusion protein further comprising comprises a linker peptide between the displayed domain and the phycobiliprotein domain.
- 7. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the fusion protein further comprising comprises a protease cleavage site between the displayed domain and the phycobiliprotein domain.

- 8. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the phycobiliprotein domain comprises at least one functionally attached bilin.
- 9. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the displayed domain is refractive to expression in E. coli.

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- 10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the displayed domain is transparent to wavelengths of visible light absorbed by phycobiliproteins.
- 11. (previously presented d) The composition of claim 1, wherein the displayed domain is transparent to wavelengths of energy emitted by the phycobiliprotein domain.
- 12. (original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a second fluorescent tag which provides intermolecular energy transfer with the phycobiliprotein.
- 13. (original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a second fluorescent tag which provides intermolecular energy transfer with the phycobiliprotein, and the second tag comprises a cyanine dye.
- 14. (original) A functional phycobilisome comprising the fusion protein of the composition of claim 1.
- 15. (original) A method for making the fusion protein of the composition of claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising a functional displayed domain and a functional phycobiliprotein domain;

making the polypeptide by expressing the nucleic acid in a cell or cell-free expression system; and

combining the polypeptide with a phycobiliprotein subunit under conditions to form the fusion protein.

16. (original) A method for isolating a functional displayed domain, the method comprising the steps of:

making the fusion protein according to the method of claim 15;

after the combining step, cleaving a peptide bond between the functional displayed domain and the functional phycobiliprotein domain; and separating the functional displayed domain from the functional phycobiliprotein domain.

- 17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the making and combining steps occur in a cell.
- 18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the making and combining steps occur in a cell, and the cell is or is a progeny of a cell which naturally expresses a phycobiliprotein.
- 19. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the making and combining steps occur in a cell, and the cell is or is a progeny of a cell which naturally expresses a phycobiliprotein, wherein the cell is a cyanobacterium.
- 20. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the making and combining steps occur in a cell, and the cell is or is a progeny of a cell which naturally expresses a phycobiliprotein, wherein the cell is a rhodophyte (red algae).
- 21. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the making and combining steps occur in a cell, and the cell is or is a progeny of a cell which naturally expresses a phycobiliprotein, wherein the cell is a cryptomonad.
- 22. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the making and combining steps occur in a cell, and the cell is or is a progeny of a cell which naturally expresses a phycobiliprotein, wherein the cell is an Anabaena cell.